Amendments to the Claims:

1 (Original). A frame device for supporting objects such as batteries during seismic stress, comprising: a pair of end frame members mounted in upstanding spaced apart relation by a plurality of vertically spaced elongated channel support members secured at opposite terminal ends to the vertical columns of the end frame members; shelves for supporting batteries spanning the channel support members and defining a plurality of compartments for the batteries; each end frame member being formed of a single sheet material shaped to define vertical columns and a web extending between the end columns; a pair of anchors; means for securing the end frames to the anchors; and means defining a plurality of openings in the web of each end frame generally aligned with the compartments formed by the shelves to provide ventilation of batteries mounted in the compartments.

2 (Original). A rack assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the shelves are divided into a plurality of zones and each zones is separated in a manner spacing the adjacent rows of batteries and including slots as part of the zone defining means which allow for vertical ventilation of the batteries.

3 (Original). A battery rack assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the vertical columns are provided with depending tangs or tabs adjacent their lower ends which engage in slots in the anchors for securing the rack assembly to a floor surface.

4 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of the vertical columns has a depending tab which engages in a slotted opening in the anchor and wherein the anchor is of U-

shaped cross-section and wherein the columns snugly engage seat between the side walls of the anchor to provide a relatively rigid assembled structure.

5 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of the shelves is divided into zones by a series of slots and projecting dimples to position the rows of batteries in space relation and allow vertical ventilation of the batteries when they are mounted in the compartments.

6 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the batteries are snugly mounted in jackets which are open at one end and have transversely projecting ears for securing the jackets in the compartments, said ears spaced outwardly from the edge defining the opening in the jacket, said jackets being of a depth slightly less than the length of the battery so that the seam between the cover and the jar is positioned exteriorly of the jacket.

7 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ears on opposing side edges of the jacket are staggered so that when they are assembled in the compartments the ears adjacent the jackets in adjacent compartments are positioned next to one another.

8 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 1, including retainer bars spanning the ears of the jacket for securing them in place.

9 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 1, including a protective cover overlying the front face of all the batteries in the various compartments.

10 (Original). A frame device as claimed in claim 9, wherein protective cover has a plurality of openings permitting insertion of a probe for testing each of the batteries.

11 (Original). A battery rack assembly for supporting objects.such as batteries during seismic stress, comprising: a pair of end frames connect spaced apart in relation by a series of channel support members, each of said frame members being made of a single piece of sheet material and shaped to define a pair of spaced elongated columns of confronting C-shaped cross-section and a web connecting the columns having a series of openings providing cross ventilation for the compartments defined by the spaced channel support members; said end frame members mounted in anchors which are adapted to be secured to a support surface such as a floor and a plurality of shelves spanning the channel shelf supports to define a plurality of compartments for storing the batteries.

12 (New). A battery assembly for mounting in a shelved rack, along with other battery assemblies, whereby the battery assemblies may be emplaced and removed from the rack without damage to a battery jar inside, the battery assembly comprising:

a. a generally rectangular jacket having opposed upper and lower walls and opposed side walls, and having one end closed and one end open for housing the battery jar;

b. transversely projecting ears for securing the jackets in the rack, the ears projecting outwardly from the edges of the upper and lower walls of the jacket that define the open end;

c. the battery jar being emplaced in the jacket and a cover sealed to the battery jar adjacent the open end of the jacket forming a seam therebetween;

d. the jacket being of a length slightly less than the length of the battery jar, so that the seam between the battery jar and the cover is positioned exteriorly of the jacket.

13 (New). The battery assembly according to claim 12 wherein the ears on opposing side edges of the jacket are staggered so that when the battery assemblies are assembled one above the other on adjacent shelves in the rack, the ears projecting from jackets on adjacent shelves are positioned next to each other.

14 (New). The battery assembly according to claim 13 and further including retainer bars spanning the ears of adjacent jackets when assembled one above the other on adjacent shelves in the rack for securing them in place.

15 (New). A battery system designed to support batteries in such a way as to survive seismic forces during earth tremors and the like comprising:

a. a rack assembly formed of a pair of end frames mounted in upstanding spaced apart relation and anchored to a floor surface, a plurality of shelves secured to and spanning the end frames, each shelf divided into zones defining a plurality of compartments for positioning the batteries in spaced relation;

b. a plurality of separate battery assemblies mounted on the shelves of the rack assembly;

c. each battery assembly including a battery jar mounted in a protective jacket whereby the battery assemblies may be emplaced and removed from the rack without damage to the battery jar inside, each battery assembly comprising:

i. a generally rectangular jacket having opposed upper and lower walls and opposed side walls, and having one end closed and one end open for housing the battery jar;

ii. transversely projecting ears for securing the jackets in the rack, the ears projecting outwardly from the edges of the upper and lower walls of the jacket that define the open end;

iii. a cover sealed to the battery jar adjacent the open end of the jacket forming a seam therebetween;

iv. the jacket being of a length slightly less than the length of the battery jar, so that the seam between the battery jar and the cover is positioned exteriorly of the jacket.

16 (New). The battery system according to claim 15 wherein the ears on opposing side edges of the jacket are staggered so that when battery assemblies are assembled one above the other on adjacent shelves in the rack, the ears projecting from jackets on adjacent shelves are positioned next to each other.

17 (New). The battery system according to claim 16 and further including retainer bars spanning the ears of adjacent jackets when assembled one above the other on adjacent shelves in the rack for securing them in place.

18 (New). The battery system according to claim 15 and further including a protective cover overlying the front face of all the battery assemblies in the rack assembly.

19 (New). The battery system according to claim 18 wherein the protective cover has a plurality of openings permitting insertion of a probe for testing each of the battery assemblies.

20 (New). The battery system according to claim 15 wherein each of the shelves is divided into zones by a series of slots therein and dimples projecting upwardly therefrom to position the rows of battery assemblies in spaced relation and allow vertical ventilation of the battery assemblies when they are mounted in the rack assembly.